

## BOOK REVIEWS

**A Geography of Ohio, 2nd Edition. Leonard Peacefull, ed. 1996. The Kent State University Press, Kent, OH. 340 p. \$35.00 paperback.**

Peacefull's *A Geography of Ohio* does not necessarily represent a more comprehensive treatment of the State than the previous Ohio geography text, Noble and Korsok's *Ohio—An American Heartland*, but it does present readers with a more logically constructed collection of chapters. The book is organized into four sections: physical, cultural, urban, and economic. Chapters comprising each section are written by experts in their field, and are arranged in a way that allows readers to conceptualize the ways in which these factors affect, and are likewise affected by, each of the others. This sets a stage for a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter, rather than a perception of the material as a collection of discrete facts.

Peacefull muses about the importance of Ohio and its instrumental and dynamic role in the evolution of the United States. His introductory remarks about the nature of interactions between the physical characteristics of Ohio and the people of Ohio is a theme that is continually considered by each author. Many discussions are placed into the context of the Great Lakes region and/or the United States, but this spatial relationship is often given only cursory attention. While this treatment often describes an intricate interplay, the text offers themes in an easy-to-understand format.

Through discussions ranging from landform regions to mineral resources, physical landscape topics are given a comprehensive and systematic treatment. It is refreshing to note that each section is written with careful attention to connect readers to specific examples on the Ohio landscape—thus bringing often abstract definitional discussions into a real-world context. This is particularly relevant to students from Ohio—many of whom are surprised to find that “textbook-quality” examples of unique physical landscape features often exist in their own backyard.

“A surprisingly complex mosaic of people and activities” is an apt sentiment to describe this book's treatment of Ohio's cultural foundations. From aboriginal landscapes, Anglo-American landscapes, and economic landscapes to the resulting population patterns of their enduring legacies, readers are reminded of the complex, reciprocal relationships between the actions of people and their settlement patterns. Particularly impressive is the illustration of numerous similarities in the patterns and activities of past and present cultures of Ohio. For example, it is often surprising to readers that many of Ohio's modern transportation arteries actually follow Native American trails.

Relative location and centrality are two themes that pervade the discussion of Ohio's urban tradition. Particularly well constructed are the short “city vignettes” of Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo, Akron, Youngstown, and Dayton-Springfield. Overriding factors of each city's morphology and function are the primary

focus of each author. The result is a well-conceived “snapshot” of the dependent relationships between cities and their hinterlands, as well as with other metro areas. The final chapter of this section nicely illustrates the morphology of small towns in Ohio. In keeping with this book's theme of interconnections, the chapter situates its subject matter in the context of past settlement patterns. It revisits the uniqueness of small town attitudes and resulting morphologies. Curiously absent from this discussion, however, is a clear illustration of the relationship between these small towns and the larger urban areas discussed previously. This point seems particularly relevant in light of the trend that sees manufacturing concentrations moving out of Ohio urban areas and into rural Ohio.

Not surprisingly, the final section of this work draws on much of the information presented in previous chapters. Topics ranging from energy production to tourism are all illustrative of the relationships between these economic factors and the past, present, and future geography of Ohio. While often taking on an overly-systematic character, the text, nevertheless, offers readers a complex and comprehensive discussion of the many factors that make up the Ohio economic mosaic. This section ends with a discussion of Ohio's recreational assets—an element that could easily be overlooked. The relationship between changes in the participation in recreational activities and the factors that affect users' decisions is cursorily addressed, but might deserve more attention.

The final chapter outlines the dynamic nature of southeastern Ohio. An area that has experienced boon and bane, southeast Ohio is now being advertised as financially accessible for residential uses, service industries, and waste facilities. The chapter ties together many previously expressed notions about southeast Ohio as being a nearly forgotten slice of the State.

Most shortcomings of this volume are easily overshadowed by the comprehensive treatment of the subject matter. However, one criticism must be made explicit. Many discussions throughout this work rely heavily on thematic maps or other visual representations. While these illustrations are often useful, it was surprising that some authors did not take advantage of more current mapping technologies. While content with the amount of information contained in this volume, I have found myself often apologizing to my students for the marginal quality of the graphics. More contemporary versions of these representations will be more appealing to an increasingly visually-oriented population.

Peacefull ends this book by reiterating the notion that Ohio is still in a process of change, and that if Ohio is to significantly compete in a changing and increasingly interconnected world, it must cling to the diversity that molded it, and that which it still possesses. This diverse mosaic is embraced and illustrated by the authors. Thus, this reviewer offers a strong recommendation of this book for anyone interested in exploring the foundations of Ohio cultural and physical landscapes

DAN DONALDSON

Department of Geography  
Kent State University  
Kent, OH 44242-0001

**Terns of Europe and North America. Klaus Malling Olsen and Hans Larsson. 1995. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. 175 p. \$39.50.**

Here is a book that will prove essential to both avid birders and seabird biologists. As a group, terns can be as confusing as gulls and shorebirds, but previously there have been no thorough accounts to help with their identification. The book is reminiscent of *Gulls: A Guide to Identification* by P. J. Grant (1982 Buteo Books), which details by species, how to identify gulls within Europe and North America. No doubt the authors were inspired in part by Grant to take on this remarkable project since their book is dedicated to Peter Grant.

Standard regional field guides are inadequate when it comes to identifying complex issues of aging and differences in seasonal plumage. Like their larger relatives, the gulls, terns show remarkable, yet often subtle variety between seasons and ages. The ability to recognize birds by age and plumage is more than just a test of visual acuity and birder competence. Identification skills at this level can also contribute to science and conservation by helping serious birders and professionals conduct studies of distribution, migration and population changes. Knowledge of the variation within species also permits keen observers to recognize the occasional rarity or vagrant.

Unlike Grant's *Gulls*, *Terns of Europe and North America* is illustrated throughout with color plates. While color is not essential for a book about birds which are largely shades of black, brown and white, the 41 color paintings by the authors and 208 individual color photos in the rear of the book add an important dimension to this already excellent book.

For each of the 23 species included, the reader first finds a section of *general* field identification and structural characteristics which includes subtle notes on behavior, flight action and distinguishing plumage characteristics. This species identification section is followed by a discussion of molt, with details on when it occurs and how the plumage on different parts of the body changes with time. In smaller font, the reader then finds a *detailed* account of exactly what the bird looks like in each of its plumage. This is where the really serious birder sits up and pays attention. For example, under the Gull-billed Tern detailed description, the reader finds notes such as "Underparts white, sometimes with faint grey tinge on belly (especially males). Dark tips to outermost 5-6 primaries form dark trailing edge to outer part of hand, borders toward wingtip (including above)."

Each species account also includes a discussion of geographic variation, a world map showing distribution, and a section on measurements by sex and age taken from museum specimens that includes measurements of wing, tail, bill, and weight. Each species account is accompanied by at least one full-page color artist plate that shows variation in fleshy part color and selected plumage variations. Caspian Tern, for example, has

two artist plates, with a total of 12 separate paintings and five photographs showing nearly all angles of view and most plumage. Each account also has an inset box with shaded background titled a "Quick Key to Identification" and occasional pen and ink drawings.

With this remarkable wealth of detail, it is not surprising that an occasional problem exists, such as the transposition of the caption for the adult summer race of *Sterna hirundo longipennis* and the adult summer plumage of *Sterna hirundo*.

*Terns of Europe and North America* is an extremely valuable aid for avid birders and biologists and brings overdue attention to these beautiful and elegant birds.

STEPHEN W. KRESS

Seabird Restoration Program  
National Audubon Society  
159 Sapsucker Woods Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850 USA

**The Cancer Handbook: A Guide for the Non-specialist. Darrell E. Ward. 1995. Ohio State University Press, Columbus, OH. 130 p. \$13.95.**

To many people, cancer is a mysterious disease with no specific cause or cure. Although scientists have made significant progress toward cancer diagnosis and treatment, too many people still lose their lives to cancer. An educational tool is needed to help the lay person understand the disease of cancer. In my opinion, *The Cancer Handbook: A Guide for the Nonspecialist*, by Darrell E. Ward is an excellent educational tool for educating individuals who would like to know more about cancer, understand the disease, and communicate with specialists and other experts in the field. The book will also serve persons with family members or friends diagnosed with cancer to achieve a better understanding of the disease and its prognosis.

*The Cancer Handbook* is divided into two parts: The first part explains a broad range of cancer-associated topics. It begins by giving the reader a short explanation of cancer followed by the role of animal models in cancer research, carcinogenesis, clinical trials, drug development, cancer diagnosis, stages of cancer, diet as it relates to cancer, the role of DNA, gene regulation, gene control, gene mutation, and cancer suppressor genes. The second part of the book contains a glossary of comprehensive cancer-related terms, clearly defined to assist the readers. In both sections, explanations and definitions are brief, concise, well-written, easy to read, and easy to follow.

As the book title indicates, this is a guidebook for nonspecialists, not a replacement for the excellent existing oncology textbooks. I believe Ward has made a significant contribution to the understanding of the disease of cancer. I plan to recommend this book to my students who are entering the field of oncology or cancer.

ROUDABEH J. JAMASBI

Department of Medical Technology  
Bowling Green State University  
Bowling Green, OH 43403-0287